



NM TESOL Newsletter

New Mexico Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

Spring 2020

Message from NM TESOL

By Amy Christensen and Laura McIndoo, Co-Presidents

We know you are familiar with the opening lines in Charles Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities*, which starts off with:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us".

We believe these words capture the personal and professional feelings we have experienced in the last six weeks of quarantine. Like many of you, we had to quickly transform face to face classes to online delivery knowing that not all of our students have wifi, computers, or even phones. Going from almost perfect attendance in our community college classes to less than half was the worst of times for teaching. Nonetheless, we have used a plethora of apps and online activities with our remaining students to try to make this the spring of hope. The Board has shared some of its favorite apps on our website at: <https://nmtesol.org/resources/teaching-online-resources/>

"It is a far, far better thing" for all of us to stay home right now in this season of Darkness. We do have everything before us which always includes our state-wide commitment to serving our ESL population in New Mexico. Our plans for our fall conference are on hold as we wait to see what happens with the Coronavirus. Stay tuned for an email in late August with the latest news about the fall conference.

Please stay home and stay healthy!

In this issue

Message from NM TESOLp. 1

Highlights of the NM TESOL Spring Workshopp. 2-3

Teaching Ideas for Online Instruction..... p. 4

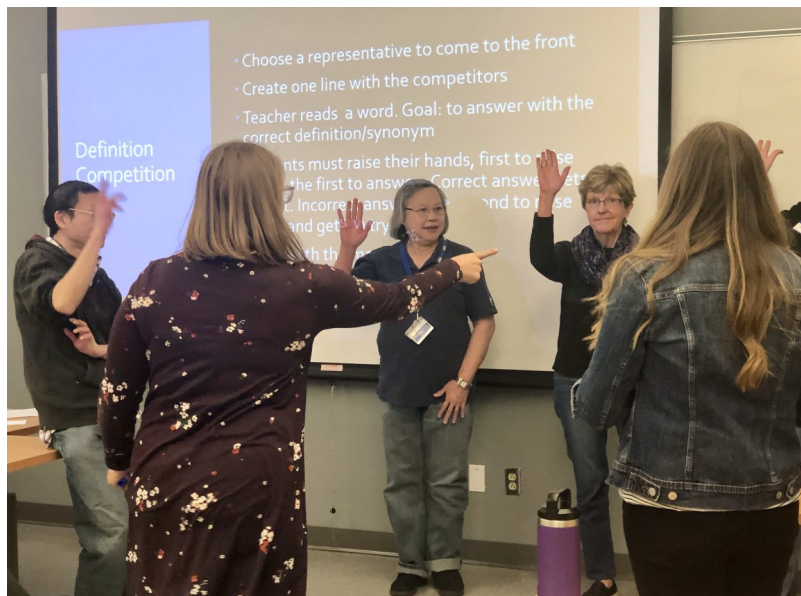
Highlights of the 2020 Spring Workshop

On March 6, 2020 approximately 45 ESL teachers attended NM TESOL's spring workshop, titled ***New Decade, New Ideas***. The workshop was held at **CNM's Montoya Campus** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During the half-day workshop, participants were able to attend interactive presentations, network with colleagues, and visit the Professional ESL Resource Room (PERC).

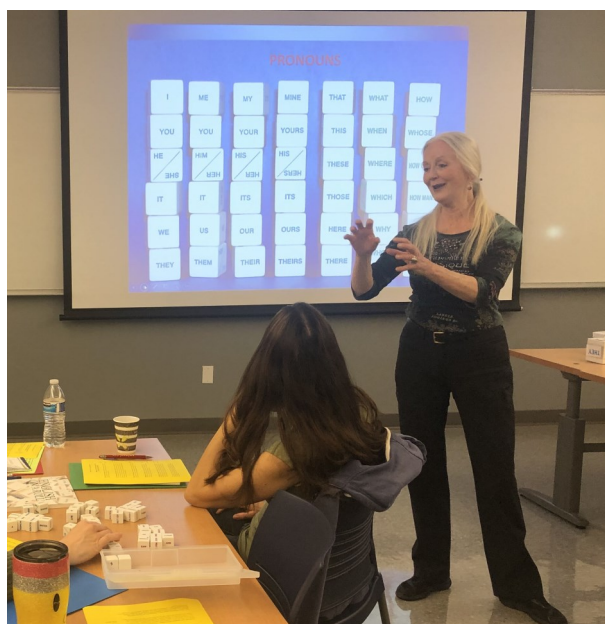
Nathan Farmer presented a session on ***Communicative Language Teaching: Using Tasks to Teach Grammar with the Focus on Form Approach***. In this session, attendees engaged with the Focus on Form approach that helps to boost realistic communication while focusing on grammar.

Amy Zhupikov presented a session on ***Interactive Activities to Facilitate In-Context Vocabulary Learning***. Attendees walked away with a few new strategies and a renewed enthusiasm for vocabulary instruction.

Amy Christensen and **David Williams** led a discussion about ***Best Practices in ESL Orientations*** with a focus on discussing and sharing successful strategies.



Attendees could choose from nine interactive presentations.
Photo: Claire Schneider



Linda Koran presenting English on a Roll.

Photo: Claire Schneider

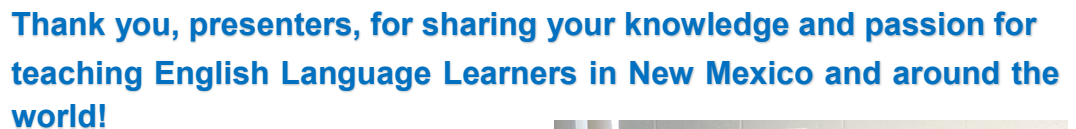
Rebecca Sherry demonstrated how to use a learning management system (LMS) to provide shortcuts to lesson planning and extend student learning outside the classroom: ***Using Blackboard (or your LMS) to Organize Your ESL Classroom***.

In the session ***Hands-on Grammar with English on a Roll: Fun and Effective!*** **Linda Koran** presented a teaching technique that engages all three learning styles (visual, auditory, and tactile) to teach grammar concepts with an interactive and fun method developed by **Koran**. In the session, attendees became familiar with the Multi-sensory Structured Language (MSL) method, a well-researched teaching method that focuses on simultaneous teaching to the learning styles.

Continued from p. 2

In his session ***Reflect it Back: Using Mentor Observations to Examine Pedagogical Practices***, **David Williams** invited participants to take part in a number of dialogic activities, aimed at reifying their pedagogical beliefs and bringing to light the extent to which these beliefs align with best practices. These exercises are based on more than 80 classroom observations, conducted by English Language Fellows Ken Richter and David Williams in Córdoba and Tucuman, Argentina during 2019.

Christina Trujillo presented a session on ***Effective Reading Comprehension Strategies for English Learners***. Attendees participated in an interactive game with the use of cell phones. The session presented a strategy that focuses on effective reading instruction for English Learners, cognate awareness, and building academic vocabulary.



During the General Meeting, **Amy Christensen**, NM TESOL Co-President introduced the Board Members, gave updates about NM TESOL's accomplishments, and discussed goals expanding the PERC to offer online services.

Long-time treasurer **Dean Sundberg** was honored and recognized for his service and dedication to NM TESOL. Dean is stepping down after eight years of service.

Photo: Judith Tomasson



Speaking and Listening for Online Instruction

By **Christina M. Trujillo**, English Language Development
Coordinator, Rio Rancho Public Schools,
Doctoral Student at New Mexico State University

As a teacher of English Language Learners in kindergarten through fifth grade, a daily activity I led in the class focuses on speaking, listening, and oral language development skills. This was performed by an introduction of ourselves with the sharing of details on a particular topic or question prompt. In my efforts to continue this activity in the current online schooling environment, I have been able to start the introduction by creating a video recording of myself on [Flipgrid](#) along with my modeling of the topic and details. (In my district, parental consent needs to be given before students can use Flipgrid, so check with your school before using.) I can give directions through Flipgrid. Students respond with recording their introduction and sharing of details on Flipgrid.

I can post the Flipgrid assignment on Google Classroom. If students do not have Google Classroom, they can enter through the website [Flipgrid.com](#) and can enter the flip code or a QR code from their device. Flipgrid allows the teacher to add a co-teacher. What is nice about Flipgrid is that students can respond to each other's videos and to my video.



Resources from TESOL

Click on the images below to access these resources.



NM TESOL Board Members

Laura McIndoo — Co-President

Amy Christensen — Co-President

Claire Schneider — Secretary

David Williams — Treasurer

Judith Balazs Tomasson — Newsletter Editor

Judy Ma — Website Coordinator

Julie Maestas Pierce — Membership Coordinator

Welcome New Board Member, David Williams!

David Williams, MA has been working in the field of TESOL and Adult Education since 2001 when he took a TEFL certification class in Guadalajara, Mexico and ended up staying for 6 years. He recently returned to the Albuquerque after serving as an English Language Fellow in Argentina for 2019. He is a full-time faculty member at CNM where he teaches Developmental Education (ESL, HSE, IRW). He has a Chihuahua-mix named Andy who enjoys walks, naps and bacon with his human.



PERC Updates

The PERC is closed for the foreseeable future because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please hold on to any items that are checked out until the PERC can re-open.



NM TESOL brings together and supports English language educators throughout New Mexico, strengthening instruction for English language learners at all levels, and providing leadership and advocacy for both.



Keep in touch with us at <https://nmtesol.org/>
or follow the updates on the [NM TESOL Facebook page](#).

It's easy to become a member of NM TESOL. [Join today!](#)